CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION NEWS

(Written by J. S. Hubbard, Executive Secretary of the Missouri Press Association.)

Association.)
Jefferson City, Mo., Nov. 2.—Agreement was reached in the committee of the whole Wednesday evening on amendments to the initiative and refamendments to the initiative and ref-erendum after several days of ex-haustive discussion. Changes made from the present constitution are noted briefly as follows: Percentage of signers required for referring an act of the general as-sembly raised from 5 to 12 per cent.

Leaving the percentage for initiat-ing laws at the present 8 per cent, but increasing to 12 per cent for in-itiation petitions to amend the con-

stitution

Providing that referred laws shall be submitted to the voters in the fol-lowing language: "Shall the act of the general assembly be rejected?" Providing that laws initiated by the people shall be subject to amendment

or repeal the same as laws passed by the general assembly. Providing that all referred laws shall be voted on only at general elec-

Basing the percentage required on the whole number of votes cast for governor at the next preceding elec-tion in each of at least two-thirds of the congressional districts, instead of on the vote for justice of the supreme Francois County for 1922

Apportionment of School Funds of St.

Requiring that petitions for initia-tive or referendum be left with some official authorized to take acknowl-edgments of deeds, and providing that the signer shall not be required to pay a fee.

Providing that voters not able to

write their names shall affix their mark and that their names be written

mark and that their names be written for them and witnessed by two witnesses, and that in districts requiring registration all signers of petitions shall be registered voters.

The final agreement was reached by a vote of 31 to 20. The proposition is subject to further amendment in the convention before going to the Committee on Phraseology and Arrangement, after which there will be two opportunities to change before the final vote. the final vote.

No question that has been before No question that has been before the convention for discussion has provoked so much oratory as the initiative and the referendum. More than half the members present during the days of general debate have expressed themselves on the question, which was generally considered the livest issue before the people today. A few have taken the extreme view that the initiative and referendum should be wiped out entirely, while the other extreme would make but slight modification of the present law. The majority report of the com-

The majority report of the com-mittee made three definite changes in the present act. The percentage of signatures required for initiating a law was changed from 8 to 5 per cent and the percentage for referring a law from o to 8 per cont of the whole vote cast for governor in the next preceding election in at least two thirds of the congressional districts of the state. Another change suggested, in the form of a safeguard required that every signer in a district where registration was the law be registered. The third requirement rolated to the signatures of voters who could not write their names but made their mark. This was the same provision as agreed to in the amended

The minority report raised the perand would require all signers to go to the county clerk's office or to the office of the election commissioners in cities and sign their names in the presence of an official who should satisfy himself as to their qualifications. tions. Persons making their mark would be required to have the clerk, deputy or election commissioner sign their names and addresses for them.

The members speaking on the ques tion were united in one particular and that was that there should be some change from the present loose method of applying the law. It was charged among other things: That names of dead men appeared

on petitions circulated ni St. Louis, asking to refer certain laws, and that the circulators, who were paid ten cents per name, in many cases mis-represented the purpose of the law it was passed by the general as-

That it denied to the people a republican or representative form of government which was guaranteed to them in the constitution of the United States and of the State of Missouri as at first enacted.

That under the present law it was

possible for about 3 per cent of the voters to get a law referred that was enot unsatisfactory to the other 97

That it required a majority vote of the general assembly t pass a law that had been thoroughly studied in committee and on the floor and read three times and then signed by the governor, but that the work could be undone by a minority of the voters, the majority of whom knew nothing about the law they were referring or

On the other hand the friends of the law contended that it was just as bad to pass the minority report as to wipe out the law altogether, as it would have the same effect. It was de-clared that farmers and laboring peo-

It was triged that while there had been abuses in the administration of the law, it was better to safeguard it than to wipe it out. It was pointed out tha in 1914, six years afer the adoption of the initiative and referentian, the people on a proposal to amend it had rejected the proposal to amend it had rejected the proposal to amend it had rejected the proposal to the proposal to amend it had rejected the proposal to the style of all measures proposed to the law passed by the general assembly if he voted "yes" on the proposition. It was claimed that this would lead to more intelligent voting.

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The style of all measures proposed to the law passed by the general assembly if he voted "yes" on the proposition.

The style of all measures proposed by initiative would read:

"Be it cracted by the people of the by initiative would read:

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It was provided that this would lead to more intelligent voting. amend it had rejected the proposal. It was provided further that when by a majority six times as great as a law was so enacted it might be that by which they had passed it at amended or repealed as any other

Name of District Clerk and Addres		Louis Henroid, Valles Mines F. A. Frazier, Valles Mines J. M. Ferkins, Blackwell F. Graham, Bonne Terre, R. R. 2 C. H. Lucy, Bismarck Mrs. H. B. Shamon, Halifax T. J. Buckner, Elvins Mrs. H. Wilson, Bome Terre, R. R. D. E. Hall, French Village A. A. Schmidt, French Village	J. J. Bowman, Bonne Terre J. J. F. Babb, Bonne Terre C. R. Archer, Farmington, R. R. 2 A. W. David, Bonne Terre Frank Sickman, Bonne Terre F. E. Turley, Bonne Terre Harvey Strong, Bonne Terre Harvey Strong, Bonne Terre H. B. Reed, Doe Run Oscar Ransem, Deslogo	John R. Harris, Farmington R. R. 4 J. P. Cayee, Farmington C. W. Taylor, Farmington Geo, Hager, Farmington Geo, Wininger, Esther Ernest Rice, Frankelay T. E. Ruffing, Deelogo Geo, Lindsey, Bismarck	Jesse French, Elvins, R. R. 1 Leslie Lee, Elvins, R. R. 1 Leslie Lee, Elvins, R. R. 1 Sam Gossett, Farmington, R. R. 4 Peter Zolman, Farmington, R. R. 2 Mrs. Billio Smith, Farmington C. F. Schastan, Farmington C. C. Schuttler, Farmington P. G. Rickus, Farmington, R. R. 1 Dr. E. Hervig, Farmington, R. R. 1 Miss Bertha Hunt, Farmington, R. R. 6 Miss Bertha Hunt, Farmington	John A. Pressley, Bismarck S. W. Cooley, Bismarck W. L. Edmonds, Iron Mountain I. T. Sides, Farmington, R. R. 6 Miss Virginia Tetley, Farmington R. N. J. Meyer, Parmington, R. R. 1 C. A. Ebrecht, Knob Lick, Route I John Kerchum, Knob Lick, R. H. H. H. O'Barnen, Knob Lick, R. R. E. L. Huff, Farmington, R. R. 7	Alex C. Harson, Farmington, R. R. 6 J. W. Rhodes, Mine La Motte C. R. Pratt, Flat River R. N. Leeigh, Wonneck A. B. Deremiah, Leadwood S. P. Elliott, Plattin, R. R. 1 Robert McGeorge, Knob Liek J. Sturgess, Farmington
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that could be invoked at any time the representatives of the people failed to enact proper laws or enacted bad laws, and it was eminently proper that the people have this means of expression.

Friends of the law also declared

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Friends of the law also declared that the fault was not with the law itself but in the operation, and that the abuses could be correced by amendment. They were confident that the people were informing themselves more and more on public questions and were voting understandingly. With increasing educational facilities the coming generation would cilities the coming generation would be still better informed in governmental matters.

A substitute for both the majority and minority reports would raise the percentage of petitioners for the initiative to 10 and the referendum to 15 per cent. The act referred would be described on the ballot as provided by law and the question submitted in

After the minority report had been voted down with only nine votes in its favor, the old section was introduced as a substitute, simply changing the percentage for the referendum from 5 to 12, and cutting out special elec-tions. This was voted down after amendments to it had been offered and lost changing the percentages to either 8 or 10. The rising vote on the substitute was 23 to 30.

In the prayer of the chaplain few mornings ago he referred to crit-icisms that had been printed or spoken in regard to the convention, in the following words:

be described on the ballot as provided by law and the question submitted in the following form:

"Shall the act of the general assembly be rejected?"

In this way the voter would go on record as definitely opposed to the law passed by the general assembly if he votei "yes" on the proposition. It was claimed that this would lead to more intelligent voting.

The style of all measures proposed by intintive would read.

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"Be it cracted by the people of the State of Missouri."

constructive criticism. Our Father, but that low carping, harsh and unreasonable criticism that comes from reasonable criticism that comes from those who are not responsible should

Although Proposal No. 57, which would empower the general assembly to provide for a court of industrial relations, was rejected by the Committee on Judiciary to whom it was submitted, protests against such a provision continue to come to the convention. The proponent wished to have the matter referred to the people as a separate proposition and not ple as a separate proposition and not as a part of the constitution. While It may be introduced on the floor of the convention there appears to be little sentiment in favor of such a law.

The report of the Committee Corporations, which had been agreed to in the committee of the whole, was the last thing to be considered by the convention before its election recess, being up for committee and other amendments before going to the Com-mittee on Phrascology and Arrange-

A proposal was put before the con-vention this week to provide in the bill of rights that the word "idn" be adopted into the language of the state, for use as a third person pro-noun of common gender, whether masamend it had rejected the proposal by a majority six times as great as have no place in our consideration, a law was so enacted it might be that by which they had passed it at first.

It was further urged that the people had never relinquished the right to decide for themselves how they should be governed and that they should never be denied this right. The initiative and refundum the friends of the law contented was a check on the legislative beach of the government.

It was further urged that the people had never relinquished the right to a petition should sign it in the pressitute provided that each signer of decide for themselves how they should never be denied this right. The initiative and refundum the friends of the law contented was a check on the legislative beach of the government.

It was provided further that when they was a law was so enacted it might be have no place in our consideration, and of include in our consideration, and of include in our consideration, and of include in our consideration, there are neoble who have no place in our consideration, and of include in our consideration, and of include in our consideration, they had a law was so enacted it might be have no place in our consideration, there are neoble who have no place in our consideration, there are neoble who love the limelight so well they are willing to make exregious mistakes stitute provided that each signer of in our consideration, the culine, feminine or neuter, and of include in our consideration, there are neoble who love the limelight so well they are willing to make exregious mistakes in order to maintain their places in order to maintain their places

another partially considered, while five, not including the corporations report, have gone to the Committee on Phraseology and Arrangement. The Judiciary report is yet to be completed and will probably be the first one considered after the election recess. Six more are to be taken up and four of these—Taxation, Counties, Cities and Towns, Education and Bill of Rights—are expected to consume a great deal of time. Military Affairs and Miscellaneous Provisions, but it is not anticipated that there will be much change in the report of the Committee on Agriculture. The the Committee on Agriculture. The

C. G. Brittingham, of Eldon, suffer ed a stroke of paralysis Monday night and is considered in a serious condi-tion. He took part in the debate in committee of the whole Monday af-

More than 1.000 miles a month has been the rate of growth of completed Federal-aid roads during the present working season. The mileage completed August 31 totaled 19,308, of which 6,401 miles have been added since the beginning of the year.

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Done

official

set my hand and affix my mber, 1922.

CROWDER, Clerk of the senl.

MARVIN W.

and County

County Court, within and for the is a true copy of the apportionm 1922.

L. Marvin W. Crowder, Clerk of the hereby certify that the above and foregoing. Funds of St. Francois County for the year. IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I her Farmington, Missourl, this the 15th day of

OF MISSOURI,

STATE

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